

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SUVA 00877 261137Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 INT-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01
CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01
INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSF-01 OMB-01
PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 /130 W
-----124588 261139Z /10

O R 262234Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7443
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 0877

HICOMTERPACIS FOR STATUS LNO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FJ, XP
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

REF: BUSBY-RUNCKEL TELCON OF 26 MAY

1. IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OTHER HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT ON MAY 22
MAHE TUPOUNIUA, DIRECTOR OF SPEC, SUGGESTED TO THE FORUM COUNTRIES
THAT THEY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WESTERN SAMOAN INDEPENDENCE
CELEBRATIONS (1-2 JUNE) TO HOLD A MINI-FORUM MEETING IN
ORDER TO THRASH OUT A UNIFIED POSITION ON WHAT THE PORT MORESBY
DECLARATION REALLY MEANS. THE QUESTION IS WHAT LEVEL OF REPRE-
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SENTATION WILL GO TO APIA.

2. FIJI AND TONGA AND OF COURSE WESTERN SAMOA WILL BE REPRE-
SENTED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE PRIME MINISTERS. REPRESENTATING THE
COOK ISLANDS, NIUE AND TUVALU, THEIR CHIEF MINISTERS.
REPRESENTING AUSTRALIA WILL BE THE MINISTER ASSISTING
THE PRIME MINISTER (VINER). NEW ZEALAND WILL BE REPRESENTED

BY THE MINISTER OF LANDS AND FORESTS. PAPUA NEW GUINEA BY
THE MINISTER OF ENERGY. THE SOLOMON ISLANDS IS SENDING A MEMBER
OF PARLIAMENT WHILE NAURU AND THE GILBERTS HAVE NOT YET ADVISED.

3. THE CHANCES FOR REACHING A UNIFIED FORUM POSITION IN APIA
RANGE FROM AUSTRALIA--OPTOMISTIC BECAUSE OF THEIR BASIC
FLEXIBILITY (AUSTRALIA'S POSITION, WHILE VERY SIMILAR TO THAT OF
NEW ZEALAND, IS ENTIRELY FLEXIBLE IN THAT IT IS PREPARED TO GO
ALONG WITH WHATEVER THE OTHERS DECIDE). NEW ZEALAND--MILDLY
PESSIMISTIC BECAUSE OF BETTER KNOWLEDGE OF THE
PLAYERS (ITS POSITION IS CLEAR FAVORING US PARTICIPATION AND
NOT VERY FLEXIBLE). THE NZ REP IS NOT A FISH MAN). PAPUA NEW
GUINEA--PESSIMISTIC BECAUSE OF STONEWALLING TACTICS (EVERYTHING
IS TOO RUSHED, NOT ENOUGH TIME TO PREPARE, THE PNG REP IS TOO
LOW RANKING AND NOT A FISH MAN).

4. DETERMINING THE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE IS COMPLICATED BY
THE FACT THAT MAHE TUPOUNIUA IS CURRENTLY IN THE GILBERTS AND
WON'T BE IN HIS OFFICE UNTIL MAY 30 AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR GATES
IS IN NOUMEA ATTENDING THE SPC MEETING.

5. WE TOO ARE INCLINED TO BE PESSIMISTIC AS TO WHETHER THE
5 JUNE MEETING COULD BE HELD AS BILLED IN THE 12 MAY
INVITATION, I.E., AT A PLENIPOTENTIARY LEVEL WITH EXPECTATION
OF PRODUCING AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, MOST LIKELY, A MEETING WILL BE
HELD ON 5 JUNE BUT WITH MUCH MORE MODEST HOPES, I.E., OF
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CONTINUING DIALOGUE TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM.
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